

9. HMS PERMITS

NOAA Fisheries' HMS Management Division continues to monitor capacity in HMS fisheries. Updated vessel and dealer permit numbers for HMS fisheries as of October 2003 are included in Tables 9.1 to 9.4. The overall number of limited access permits for Atlantic swordfish, tunas and sharks declined slightly in 2003 from 1,262 to 1,245 (Table 9.1). The overall number of tuna vessel permits increased in some categories and declined in others. For instance, the number of longline permits increased from 226 to 235, whereas Harpoon, Trap and General category permits all declined. The HMS angling permit requirement which went into effect on March 1, 2003, (67 FR 77434; December 18, 2002) likely resulted in the observed increase in angling permits from 23,646 to 28,789, and charter/headboat permits increased for the third year in a row (Table 9.2). The overall number of dealer permits increased from 1,067 to 1,089, largely as a result of an increase in tuna dealers, rather than shark or swordfish dealers (Table 9.3), and the number of exempted fishing permits (EFPs) increased from 29 to 49 (Table 9.4). Scientific research permits (SRPs) declined from four to two in 2003.

Please see the 2003 SAFE Report for more detailed information on HMS permit programs, including capacity in HMS fisheries, limited access and other vessel permits, and dealer permits.

Table 9.1 **Distribution of Shark, Swordfish, and Tuna longline Limited Access Permits as of October 2003. The actual number of permit holders in each category and state is subject to change as permits are renewed or expire.**

State	# Directed Swordfish	# Incidental Swordfish	# Swordfish Handgear	# Directed Shark	# Incidental Shark	# Tuna Longline	# Permit Holders/# Permits
ME	1	1	6	1	5	1	12/15
NH	-	-	1	1	2	-	4/4
MA	11	3	19	3	14	8	35/58
RI	6	3	25	1	12	6	34/53
CT	-	-	1	-	1	-	2/2
NY	16	5	10	9	13	17	31/70
NJ	35	14	10	31	30	37	69/157
DE	1	-	-	1	1	2	2/5
MD	8	1	-	4	8	8	12/29
VA	1	5	-	5	3	3	8/17
NC	8	11	3	22	19	10	43/73
SC	4	1	-	8	14	5	22/32
GA	1	-	-	3	3	1	6/8

State	# Directed Swordfish	# Incidental Swordfish	# Swordfish Handgear	# Directed Shark	# Incidental Shark	# Tuna Longline	# Permit Holders/# Permits
FL	71	34	20	152	159	81	329/517
AL	1	2	-	3	2	2	6/10
MS	-	2	-	0	8	1	8/11
LA	33	9	-	4	45	43	51/134
TX	5	8	-	3	16	9	19/41
CA	2	-	-	-	2	1	2/5
IN	1	-	-	-	1	-	1/2
VI	1	-	-	-	1	-	1/2
Total October 2003	206	99	95	251	359	235	696/1,245
October 2002	205	110	94	251	376	226	713/1,262
October 2001	208	112	100	252	390	213	752/1,275
October 2000	240	203	125	287	585	292	982/1,732
December 1999	243	208	114	279	599	451	976/1,892

Table 9.2 The number of Atlantic tuna permit holders in each category. The actual number of permit holders in each category is subject to change. Note: some of the permit categories reflect changes from tuna only to all HMS.

Category	As of October 2000	As of October 2001	As of October 2002	As of December 2003
Longline	292	213	226	235
Angling	14,908	12,685	13,263	18,804*
Harpoon	44	53	56	47
Trap	4	1	6	2
General	6,705	6,072	6,431	5,529

Category	As of October 2000	As of October 2001	As of October 2002	As of December 2003
Purse Seine	5	5	5	5
Charter/headboat	2,728	3,260 No longer a tuna-only permit, now a HMS Charter/HB permit	3,659 No longer a tuna-only permit, now a HMS Charter/HB permit	4,167 No longer a tuna-only permit, now a HMS Charter/HB permit
Total	24,686	22,289	23,646	28,789

* HMS angling permit became effective March 1, 2003 (67 FR 77434, December 18, 2003) and includes all HMS, not just tunas.

Table 9.3 **Number of dealer permits issued in each state as of December 2003. The actual number of permits per state may change as permit holders move or sell their businesses.**

State	Atlantic tunas	Atlantic swordfish	Atlantic sharks	# of permits
AL	1	2	4	7
CA	36	29	8	73
CT	5	-	-	5
DE	4	1	-	5
FL	22	107	96	225
GA	1	2	1	4
GU	1	-	-	1
HI	6	10	5	21
IL	-	-	-	0
KY	-	-	-	0
LA	18	16	17	51
MA	114	34	22	170
MD	10	4	4	18
ME	38	4	3	45
MO	-	-	1	1
MS	-	-	2	2
NC	43	13	18	74
NH	6	-	-	6
NJ	40	12	11	63

State	Atlantic tunas	Atlantic swordfish	Atlantic sharks	# of permits
NY	72	29	14	115
OR	1	-	-	1
OH	-	1	1	2
PA	2	3	1	6
PR	4	-	-	4
RI	39	11	9	59
SC	13	11	18	42
TX	3	6	7	16
VA	26	5	6	37
VI	10	1	1	12
WA	1	7	1	9
Canada	-	7	2	9
Chile	-	1	1	2
New Zealand	-	1	-	1
Uruguay	-	1	-	1
Ecuador		1	1	2
Nova Scotia	-	6	3	
Total December 2003	516	319	254	1,089
Total October 2002	479	321	267	1,067
Total October 2001	522	302	249	1,073
Total October 2000	544	312	251	1,107

Table 9.4 Number of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) and Scientific Research Permits (SRPs) issued as of October 2003.

Permit type		2000	2001	2002	2003
Exempted Fishing Permit	Sharks for display	14	8	7	8
	HMS for display	0	1	1	1
	Tunas for display	0	0	0	0
	Shark research on a non-scientific vessel	1	5	5	9
	Tuna research on a non-scientific vessel	4	8	4	5
	HMS research on a non-scientific vessel	1	4	5	18
	Billfish research on a non-scientific vessel	0	1	0	0
	Shark Fishing	0	0	1	1
	HMS Fishing	0	0	0	0
	Tuna Fishing	3	1	6	7
	TOTAL	23	28	29	49
Scientific Research Permit	Shark research	0	2	2	1
	Tuna research	4	1	1	0
	Billfish research	0	0	0	0
	HMS (multi-species) research	1	2	1	1
	TOTAL	5	5	4	2
Letters of Acknowledgment	Shark research	3	1	3	3
	Tuna research	0	0	0	0
	Billfish research	0	0	0	0
	HMS (multi-species) research	1	0	0	0
	TOTAL	4	1	3	3

